

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We write today to ask for your assistance in addressing a critical issue for our state: the initiation of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the designation of dredged sediment disposal sites in the eastern Long Island Sound (LIS).

There are presently four dredged sediment disposal sites in Long Island Sound. The EPA, under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, designated two open-water dredged material disposal sites in western Long Island Sound to provide long-term, environmentally acceptable disposal options for potential use by federal, state, municipal and private entities that must dredge channels, harbors, marinas and other aquatic areas in Long Island Sound.

However, EPA has not designated the two eastern LIS sites for long term use. Instead, the Army Corps of Engineers has designated the use of these sites only on an interim basis. Without designation by EPA, the New London and Cornfield Shoals sites will close in 2011 and 2013, respectively. As a result, all federal dredging projects, and some non-federal projects, will be denied access to these sites – cutting off dredging and harbor maintenance projects that are critical to ensuring safe navigation and facilitating marine commerce.

The urgency of this issue was recently underscored when the New York Department of State (NY DOS) objected to the use of the New London site for maintenance dredging at US Naval Submarine Base New London. On November 2, 2009, NY DOS denied the publicly noticed project for consistency with its coastal zone management plan, in part challenging the interim designation of the New London disposal site. While we believe that New York's decision is misguided and flawed, the lack of designation of the site and the urgency of dredging at SUBASE New London have left our state and the Navy with little recourse.

We are deeply concerned that this decision essentially closes the New London site nearly two years before it is due, and will have serious repercussions for coastal communities in our state. Without designation of long term disposal sites in the eastern LIS, communities, businesses and the SUBASE will face increased costs for the transport of dredge material to the western sites. And, closing the site puts in

doubt necessary dredging of federal channels, as well as needed non-federal projects.

EPA has previously committed to move ahead with a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), subject to the availability of the necessary funding. We hope you share our concern and urgency for this project, and ask that you make the SEIS for the designation of eastern LIS disposal sites a priority as you prepare the EPA's fiscal year 2011 budget request. We remain committed to working with you on this important issue, and securing the necessary funds for this important project.

We look forward to your consideration and response to our request, and continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



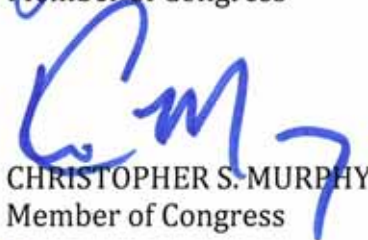
ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



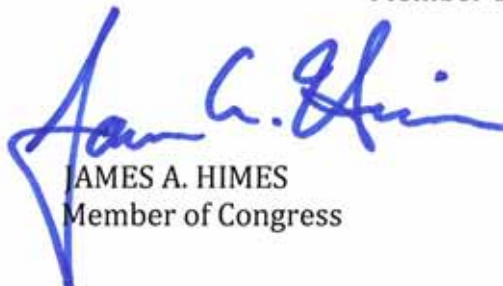
JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress



JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. Peter Orzag, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Col. Philip T. Feir, Commander, New England Region, US Army Corps of Engineers
M. Jodi Rell, Governor, State of Connecticut
Joan McDonald, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Amey Marrella, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Bob Ross, Executive Director, Connecticut Office of Military Affairs